

REMARKS

Claims 5, 9, 24, 28, 39 and 41 are presented for consideration, with each claim being independent.

In the claims, Claims 6, 7, 10, 11, 25, 26, 29 and 30 have been cancelled.

Claims 5-7, 9-11, 24-26, 28-30, 39 and 41 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as allegedly being obvious over Nishizawa '228 in view of Gecht, et al. '832. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 5 of Applicant's invention relates to peripheral equipment connected to a network and managed by a directory server on the network. The equipment includes receiving means for receiving a control command for a job from an information processing apparatus on the network, first decrypting means for decrypting an access ticket of the peripheral equipment included in the control command, and control means for limiting execution of the control command based on decryption results of the first decryption means. In addition, second decryption means decrypts the access ticket of the peripheral equipment included in the job. As claimed, in the case where the control command is one for deleting a specified job, the control means determines whether or not the job can be deleted based on the decryption results of the first decrypting means and the decryption results of the second decrypting means.

Claims 24 and 39 relate to a control method and a computer-readable storage medium, respectively, and correspond to Claim 5.

Applicant's invention as set forth in Claim 9 relates to peripheral equipment connected to a network and managed by a directory server on the network, and includes obtaining

means for logging into the directory server based on information inputted from an operation panel and obtaining an access ticket of the peripheral equipment corresponding to the inputted information from the directory server, inputting means for, after obtaining the access ticket, inputting a control command for the job from the operation panel, and first decrypting means for decrypting the access ticket. In addition, control means limits execution of the control command based on decryption results of the first decrypting means, and second decrypting means decrypts the access ticket of the peripheral equipment included in the job. When the control command is one for deleting a specified job, the control means determines whether or not the job can be deleted based on the decryption results of the first decrypting means and the decryption results of the second decrypting means.

Claims 28 and 41 relate to a control method and a computer-readable storage medium, respectively, and correspond to Claim 9.

The primary citation to Nishizawa relates to a network printing apparatus that includes a print server 10, a job receiving unit 1 for receiving print requests, an acquiring unit 2, and an access control table 3. As understood, the Office Action asserts that a right determining unit 6 corresponds to Applicant's claimed control means. The Office Action acknowledges that Nishizawa does not teach first and second decrypting means as set forth in Applicant's claimed invention.

The secondary citation to Gecht relates to a system for providing printing services over a communications network. Gecht discloses that a printed job may be encrypted at a print job source 10 and decrypted at a printer polling device 100 (column 9, lines 4-6). It is

submitted, however, that Gecht fails to teach or suggest, *inter alia*, decrypting an access ticket of the peripheral equipment included in a control command and decrypting the access ticket of the peripheral equipment included in a job, and determining whether or not the job can be deleted based on these decryption results. In Gecht, the print job can be encrypted so that it can only be printed by a person with the correct decryption key.

Accordingly, without conceding the propriety of combining Nishizawa and Gecht in the manner proposed in the Office Action, it is submitted that such a combination still fails to teach or suggest Applicant's claimed invention. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §103 is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of this application is deemed to be in order and such action is respectfully requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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